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Missouri House of Representatives

**John Cauthorn**

State Representative  
District 021

**COMMITTEES**

- Budget
- Appropriations - Agriculture and Natural Resources, Chairman
  - Agri-Business
  - Insurance Policy
- Interim Committee on Budget Transparency

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

August 9, 2011

Re: Docket # 11-65

Members of the Commission:

It might surprise you to know how valuable wireless broadband and Internet access is to the farmer. We are high-tech farmers today and our equipment needs the best technology we can get to help us improve crop yields and other functions on the farm. I know from talking with the leadership of the Cattlemen's Association, the Farm Bureau, and the Soybean and Corn Growers Associations that improved wireless broadband in rural Missouri is critical.

The proposed merger between AT&T and T-Mobile will accelerate the deployment of high-speed wireless broadband technology here in Missouri, so I respectfully urge you to approve the merger.

As a state Representative, I chair the Agriculture Appropriations Committee, and I am fully aware of the investments being made in rural Missouri and in rural areas of the country. This merger will result in a multi-billion dollar private investment across the country with much of that investment benefiting rural areas that desperately need it. This is a unique opportunity to help our national economy rebound while achieving a public policy goal – near universal access to high-speed wireless broadband technology – without spending taxpayer dollars. That's a rare win-win-win situation so I hope you will consider this scenario as you review the merger.

AT&T's proposed merger with T-Mobile would be good for farmers, good for rural Missouri, and good for America which is exactly why I urge you to approve it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Cauthorn".

Representative John Cauthorn  
State of Missouri

CC:

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn